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**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

**Check against delivery**

**THE STATEMENT OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
HE MR. ALFRED MOISIU  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**United Nations, New York, September 15, 2005**

**Distinguished Mr. President,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a special honor for me to address this Summit, which, because of the important decisions that will take and the large participation of world leaders marks a culminating point in the history of the United Nations. This once-in-a-generation meeting places before us the immense duty that we are here to take decisions of global importance and to follow them with global actions.

Distinguished Mr. President,

Albania has faith in the UN and in its important role in the international arena. We believe that an effective multilateral system helps in facing challenges, threats; it ensures a stable development and guarantees the respect of human rights. We subscribe to the view that the UN is the core institution in which the values of multilateralism can be achieved.

There is a common belief that stable development, full respect of human rights, strengthening of democracy and Rule of Law are indispensable to achieve a more peaceful, secure and more economically and socially prosperous world. Through multilateralism and joint partnerships, these interconnected and multifaceted challenges can be sustained.

Mr. President,

We believe that development is a priority and an objective in itself. We also value the importance of partnership in development. Developed and developing countries together have the common and urgent responsibility to transform this partnership in a success story, and in this context all countries have the obligation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

I am happy to state that Albania is today an active and a trusted partner in global cooperation and action. This is having a constructive and motivating impact on regional developments of Southeast Europe, while demonstrating at the same time, constant efforts to fulfill all its international commitments.

The Albanian government has endeavored to integrate the MDG in its main national strategies – a target that became even more focused when the country's Assembly approved a resolution on the Millennium Declaration in July 2003. We are conscious that it is high time to accomplish a more focused, more coordinated, more all-embracing and more responsible development. The practical implementation of a new national action plan on the MDG, combined with innovative financing mechanisms is showing that the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals is a great opportunity for the Albanian people to ensure a stable development and better governance.

As a country with a new democracy, at the end of transition period, and with very ambitious aims for national development, the Albanian government in collaboration with the international community has compiled the unification position document which harmonizes the development process and makes it coherent with the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union, the National Strategy for Economic and Social Development as well as with the Millennium Development Goals. On our road towards achieving the MDG, the Albanian government is working hand in hand on the local and national level with the domestic actors, civil society, private companies, and with the representatives of the international community. This is being done with the aim of sensitizing the public about the MDG, of encouraging a public debate for the most efficient methods and ways to include the MDG on the national development plans. No doubt, all the above aim at improving the capacities of Albania to monitor and regularly report on the MDG.

Our conviction is that the right attraction and assimilation of the development resources, regardless of the fact that it represents a collective and global effort of the United Nations, it is also at the mean time a challenge on other regional, inter-regional and state levels. This means for the success of these resources from the donors to the recipients depends largely on drawing of wise national policies and good governance. From our experience, we can say that more space should be given to the recipient countries to identify the needs, especially to working and management strategies on local level instruments, on trade, capital and other resources that generate development. In this context, Albania fully embraces the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is a real threat for the international community. It knows no borders, it now threatens us all, and hence the response to it must be joint and on all levels. Albanian forcefully condemns any type of terrorism. We believe that it is dangerous to wait and realize the full threat of terrorism only after you become a victim of it. That is why we believe in and support international cooperation to fight terrorism.

My country joins and fully supports the powerful message of this Summit to condemn terrorism and to undertake concerted action to fight against it. We are convinced that UN member countries, feeling the need for closer cooperation, will collaborate and act together to avoid and prevent international terrorism by combining measures in the national and international planes.

Albania appreciates and encourages the efforts to compile the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and supports its adoption during this session of the General Assembly – seeing it as an important achievement of UN global efforts against terrorism.

Albania considers of special significance the issues of disarmament and halting the proliferation of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) for the strengthening

international security. The WMD threats, their proliferation and the possibility of terrorists acquiring such weapons remain the greatest threats to the international peace and security. We are ready to support a strong language in the Summit on this issue as well as to re-enforce our efforts to face such threats.

Albania is committed to implementing the UN Plan of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. In this regard the Albanian government has started to work intensely for the completion of the national legal framework in the weapons control field. At the end of the project on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, which was implemented during the period 2002-03, around 300,000 small arms have been collected and destroyed.

Albania supports the initiatives for the creation of the Peace-building Commission, as an important part for reforming the UN, believing that peace-building strategies are at the core of all national reconstruction efforts.

Mr. President,

Albania has paid and is paying the right attention for the respect of human rights in all its aspects. It has created its own mechanisms for the practical implementation, monitoring and for the improvement of human rights for all residents. Through the already completed national legislation, harmonized with international instruments, the Albanian state institutions, nongovernmental organizations and the media, all in partnership, monitor human rights. Albania has finished the presentation and the defense before the proper UN commissions of six initial reports, related to the observation of the main Conventions in the area of human rights and is currently preparing the presentation of other periodical reports.

Albania believes that the creation of the Council for Human Rights represents a core reform proposal in this Summit. This Council, as a substitute of the Commission for Human Rights and as a action-oriented body will have the mandate to address the most flagrant human rights abuses, to provide technical support for countries in need and assure human rights as a global priority.

Strengthening the Rule of Law and developing democracy are clear and widely accepted prerogatives for strengthening peace, security and stable development on the national, but also in the international plane. We appreciate the UN programs on democracy and its contributions made. At the same time we believe that there is a need for a better coordination, a greater focus of the international community's efforts in promoting democracy and good governance.

Albania comes to this Summit with the strong will to endorse the move for the creation of the UN Democracy Fund as an effective and supportive tool for the young and restoring democracies as well as for assisting the civil society and democratic institutions.

The reform of the Security Council, as a principal institution in the field of collective security and the protection of international peace, is an important step toward the foundation of a more representative, effective and transparent institution. To make this reform as stable as possible and to give proper legitimacy to the reformed Security Council in taking and implementing decisions, we believe that that the reform must enjoy a large consensus. Heretofore we cannot fail to notice that in order to achieve this goal, which should be acceptable for the majority of member states, requires time. Any unjustifiable haste might lead to an undesirable discord among the United Nations.

As a member of the of the East Europe Countries Group, which has almost doubled in number since 1991, Albania supports the proposal that any enlargement of the nonpermanent seats in the Security Council must also ensure an increased representation of this regional group of countries, giving it, at least, one more nonpermanent seat in the reformed Security Council.

In conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to express my conviction that this summit, with the large array of issues that it deals with and with the perspective that is opening to our universal organization will be remembered as the New Millennium Summit, worthy of the name of the United Nations.

Thank you!